

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user;

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts based on a search condition; and

a search result display unit which displays parts which resulted from the search process unit, in order based on the reference number.

2. The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number.

3. The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part when the user selects and/or refers to the part among parts which are displayed by the search result display unit.

4. The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part displayed immediately before the user stops displaying of the search results.

5. The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

6. The electronic manual search system of claim 2, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference

number of the parts.

7. The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table is incorporated into the electronic manual.

8. The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table stores the reference number for each attribute of the user.

9. An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user; and

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number.

10. A method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each part, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; and

displaying parts which are resulted from the searching step, in order based on the reference number.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

14. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying an electronic manual comprising:

- a plurality of parts; and
- a reference number of each part, the reference number representing the number of times the corresponding topic is referred to as searched results.

15. The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the reference number is stored for each attribute of a user who refers to the part as searched results.

16. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing, for each part, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user;
- searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; and
- displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results, in order based on the reference number.

17. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing, for each part, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user; and
- searching contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number.

18. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

storing, for each part of an electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; and

displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results, in order based on the reference number.

19. A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable a computer to operate according to the steps of:

storing, for each part of an electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; and

displaying parts which are resulted from the searching step, in order based on the reference number.